



Official Newsletter of the Miniwanca Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps

THE AMERICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION, 3930 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo.

Holiday Greetings

H O L I D A Y S AGAIN! I hope Thanksgiving this year found you in a really thankful mood - thankful for being able to live in a country where war has not left its destructive effects.

C H R I S T M A S SOON! Wish it were possible to greet each one of you in person and wish for you a Christmas filled with meaning and devotion as is expressed in our camp motto - "My own self at my very best all the time".

C A M P N E W S and a R O S T E R of 1942 campers and leaders are included in this issue of "The Trail".



Sincerely,

T. Aubrey "Shorty" Morse

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LOW and GRAND COUNCILS

All of the leaders agreed that low and grand councils were much better this past summer than in former years. The campers really worked hard and produced some real entertainment. Be sure you keep your eyes open between now and next summer and bring with you some new stunts.

LEADERS

Some of our old leaders will be back with us again this summer. With the war on, it is difficult to secure college men, but I believe we will again this summer have practically all college men for your leaders. The Camp Director is visiting a number of colleges this winter and has found a number of fine college students who are interested in being at camp this summer. Over thirty college students have already applied for leadership.

CHICKENS and PIGS

I wish all of you campers could have seen the pigs and chickens at the end of the summer. The fine care you fellows took of them during your interest group periods proved you were really good at animal husbandry. The pigs weighed 112 pounds on the average, and the chickens were nice size fryers weighing $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 pounds. I am sure some campers will be interested in helping produce food again next summer as your part in the war effort.

LIBRARY BOOK LOST

One book belonging to the Michigan State Library - they gladly lend us about 100 books each summer for our camp library - got lost this past summer. If you by mistake happened to get this book, "A First Electrical Book for Boys", in with your luggage will you please mail it to the Foundation office, 3930 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri, so we can return it to the Michigan State Library. Thanks.

CAMP DATES - 1945

Next summer the Younger Boys Camp will open on June 21 and run for six weeks, closing on August 1. O-o-o-h B-O-Y ! That is only six months away, and then we will be back at Y.B. !!!

CAMP FOLDER

The 1943 camp folder is at the printer's now, being put in shape for an early distribution. In it there will be some new pictures, taken this past summer. Your copy will be coming soon. After you have enjoyed it, pass it on to a friend of yours.

CAMP SAVINGS CLUB

Many boys will perhaps this year want to join the Camp Savings Club, whereby you make a monthly payment throughout the winter and spring. You save money by belonging to the club. Your parents have received full details about it . . . talk it over with them.

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The Older Girls Camp which opened immediately following Y.B. overflowed the Main Unit this year and we housed 100 girls for two weeks in Younger Boys Camp.

SEND IN YOUR RESERVATIONS

Already reservations and registrations have come in for next summer. It will help us a great deal this year if you will make a reservation right away. It will save us postage and time, and during these war times we are trying to cooperate with the government in making every saving possible. Furthermore, it will prove to the proper authorities that there is a real demand for maintaining Christian character camping as a "Home Front" project for youth.

SIZE OF NEXT SUMMER'S CAMPS

We may find it necessary to cut down sharply in enrolment because of problems of labor, food, transportation, and other war hazards. We are not now setting registration limits. However, the Foundation Directors are watching things carefully, and they must reserve the right to call a halt on registrations at any time they think best. So-o-o-o, better get your registration in early to be sure of a place.

HOW ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS?

Every camper has a number of boy friends whom he might interest in coming to Miniwanca next summer. Don't forget every new camper registered by an old camper will give you a \$10 credit on your own camp fee. That's a good way to help yourself get back to camp. Talk it up among your friends.

CAMP MOVIES

If you would like to use the colored movies of camp to show in your own home, you can secure them from the Foundation office in St. Louis. They are 16mm films, and will be available during January, February, and March. Invite your friends in to see the pictures; that's a fine way to interest them.

HIGH POINTS OF THE PAST SUMMER

There were so many of them it is hard to pick them out. Unusually good work was done in the Handcraft Department. Some of the wood and plastic projects were positively artistic. Many dads and mothers were delighted with the hand-made gifts brought home to them by their sons --- The Naturecraft Department under Sam'l Cook was another high spot of the summer. The new little Nature Cabin made a hit with the campers, and Sam sure does know his Nature stuff, and HOW! What a marvelous privilege it is to learn to know God better through the living things of the out-of-doors. The Hike to Point Sable - a high spot and a wet spot! But what's a Point Sable hike without a good husky rain storm? We'd almost be disappointed without it. But the campers proved themselves good soldiers and, with plenty of eats, everybody was happy. Breasting the Breakers in Lake Michigan rings the bell every time. Everybody's happy when a good "off the lake" blow is on. It means warm water and fighting water, too - blo-o-ow me down! Nights in the Overnight Shack - there's roughing it for you! A nice easy hike with our baggage - fun around the fire - a good sleep to the distant murmur of the waves on the Lake Michigan beach - breakfast of our own making, and appetites that relish every morsel of food - good comradeship and real fun - - yes, the Adirondack Shack nights were sure high spots of last summer's camps. County Fair - what a day! Fun galore, and winding up with a big jamboree of a carnival on the tennis court that night. Never saw so many candy-bar wrappers in all my life! The Big Miniwanca Square Garden Boxing Matches - Z-z-zowie!!! There is a well-planned program for you. Good sportsmanship ruled throughout the evening and plenty of fun and hilarity - - a high spot, sure enough.

The Leaders' Frolic? - Yes, we'll have to admit that program to the Hall of Fame. At last, after many years, the leaders really did "click" with their show. Congrats, leaders! Do it again. And did we hiss the villain? Waterfront stuff was tops this year - well organized - good programs - tops in instruction, with records broken right and left - keen competition - good sailing and canoeing, and some really swell fishing - - and, whisper it softly, a chance to take a peek at the girls' water carnival and sing ... lanterns, reflections in the water ... good music ... soft breezes ... starlit sky ... and girls. Believe it or not, yowsah, we actually saw them! But, hold everything! What about that swell Banquet? There's a HIGH POINT for you! This time we were actually with the girls, and how! Program was tops, too - the Leaders' Barber Shop Quartet sure did make a bulls eye on that occasion, every time they sang. Wish the Y.B. bunch could have seen and heard them in action in Older Boys Camp when they performed before more than 400 campers and leaders.

W-e-l-l-l, HIGH SPOTS? We'll have to stop. When we review the summer it seems as if everything was just about tops - truly a High Spot - in a great camping adventure. But before we close our High Point Review, a word must be said about Vespers. There is nothing that can compare with those sunset moments on the dune top. To the boys who led vespers and to the leaders who brought their thoughtful talks - our sincere thanks. Vespers always give tone and quality to a Miniwanca day. We may forget many of the things done at camp, but no one can ever forget the impressions of the vesper hour. This indeed is our top High Point of the camp, and to this I can hear you all say a hearty "How How".

THE CAMP ROSTER

Here it is! Now you can get those Christmas cards in the mail. It's good to keep in touch with your Miniwanca buddies - it makes camp stretch over the months between camp periods. Be sure to get your cards in the mail early if you want them delivered by Christmas. Better hop to it right away.

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